

## IN MEMORIAM

**Prof. Eng. Georgi A. Peev, PhD, DSc**

**(1935-2020)**



Professor Georgi Peev (1935-2020) is an outstanding Bulgarian scientist who has taught chemical engineering to students at different Universities for many years. Combining erudition, precision, creativity and exceptional passion for science, until the last breath he impressed his colleagues and the general public with his infinite energy and the quality of his research. Dedicated to science but also a person with a broad general culture, fresh sense of humour and poetic talent, he bequeathed to us many wonderful poems. Prof. Peev was a truly noble man with an exceptional sense of responsibility towards his family and friends, his colleagues and his country.

His career began back in 1958 when he graduated with honours (*summa cum laude*) from the department of "Technology of Inorganic Materials" at the University of Chemical Technology and was recruited as a senior chemist at DPM-Rosen in Bourgas and later as a Head of laboratory at DIP-Hemus.

His scientific career began in October 1960 at the High Institute of Chemical Technology (nowadays University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy) where he won the competition for assistant professor lectureship of Processes and Apparatus in the Chemical Industry. For many years Professor Peev was a valuable member of the Department of Processes and Apparatus in the

Chemical Industry (nowadays Department of Chemical Engineering) where he gradually undertook the positions of lecturer, senior lecturer, associate professor (from 1972 onward) and a full professor (from 1982 onward). He was a longstanding member of the faculty and the Academic Council of the University and Dean of the Faculty of Organic Technology (from 1979 onward, two terms). As such he introduced two new advanced courses at the University of Chemical Technology, namely Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, which nowadays are highly popular among students. As Vice Rector of education (1987-1989) Professor Peev dedicated his time and efforts to introducing widely computer-based methods of education and new approaches toward student exams.

During the period 1984-1993 he was elected twice Head of Department of Chemical Technology and Materials in Microelectronics at University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy. During this period, he won a TEMPUS European grant - SJEP-07316-94 Development and Spreading of Education in Material Science and Technology. This project entirely supervised by Professor Peev laid the foundations of modern course of Technology of Materials and Material Science at University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy which is still in the ongoing curriculum. A second European project - CME-03618-97 Dissemination of Education in Materials Science and Technology submitted again by Professor Peev as a Coordinator and Scientist in charge was funded by the EC and provided wide opportunities for collaboration and students and staff exchange between universities in Romania, North Macedonia and Bulgaria.

For his contribution towards university education and science he was awarded the prestige medal "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" in 1985. His dedication to science and education continued even after his retirement in 2001.

During his long-term career as a University Professor he prepared and delivered the following courses:

Processes and Apparatus in Chemical Technology at the: University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy – (for many years); University Asen Zlatarov Burgas (2 years); Southwest University Blagoevgrad – 12 years; Military Academy Georgi Rakovski – 4 years.

Fluid Mechanics – at the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy (for many years); at the Faculty of Chemistry – Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski – 3 years.

Heat and Mass Transfer in Non-Newtonian liquids - at the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy (for many years).

Reactors in Biotechnology - at the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy (for 2 years)

Chemical Technology – at the Southwest University Blagoevgrad (3 years).

As Deputy Head of the Academy of Environmental Protection he delivered a course on Mechanical, Extraction and Evaporation Methods for Waste Waters Treatment.

Professor Peev's professional development includes many achievements amongst which are – PhD thesis - awarded PhD in 1970; DSc thesis - awarded DSc in 1980; international specializations at Bradford University - United Kingdom and Volgograd State Technical University – Russia. Professor Peev is an author and co-author of 11 patents and an impressive number of publications in various areas of chemical engineering science - more than 120 papers mainly in high impact factor peer-reviewed international journals, and more than 720 citations of his works by international authors including in books, handbooks and encyclopaedias.

Professor Peev's passion for science and his broad research interests resulted in considerable scientific achievements in many areas of Chemical Engineering including – Rheology of Non-Newtonian Fluids; Processes of liquid-liquid extraction, dissolution, absorption, solid-liquid extraction, and also in the areas of Biotechnology, Environmental Protection (Waste waters and gaseous treatment); Chemical Vapor Deposition;

Membrane technology – in particularly – Organic solvent nanofiltration.

Professor Peev was a Coordinator and Scientist in charge of multiple projects with industry; European projects – TEMPUS (2 projects) and multiple projects financed *via* The Bulgarian National Science Fund, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF BULGARIA.

As an Emeritus Professor he submitted, got funded and coordinated the participation of UCTM in another international project under EC FP7 program - EC Maria Curie project Industry-Academia network under FP7, IMETI-PIAP-GA-2008-218068 /Implementation of membrane technology to industry, involving 7 European partners from Academia and Industry. One of the papers published by Prof. Peev under this project was awarded first place by Elsevier as the most cited paper of Chemical Engineering Research and Design journal for the period 2011-2012.

Professor Peev was an invited lecturer at many international conferences, a permanent reviewer for 7 scientific journals and a member of organising committees of multiple international forums. He was an active member of the Bulgarian Scientific Union and the Bulgarian Chemists Union.

Professor Peev is considered the founder of research on implementation of membrane processes for separation and concentration of biologically active substances from natural extracts using organic solvent nanofiltration membranes in Bulgaria.

*This issue of Bulgarian Chemical Communications is in memory of Professor Peev – A man who devoted himself to chemical engineering*

*A.Nikolova  
D. Peshev*